

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-15 AF-10 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 MC-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 SSO-00

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P R 141133Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2977

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET REPORTING ON ME

REF: A. STATE 203596; B. MOSCOW 12669

1. SUMMARY: MEDIA COMMENT ON MIDDLE EAST CONTINUES TO SUPPORT ARAB SIDE IN PRESENT WAR AND WHILE GIVING RELATIVELY RE-STRAINED TREATMENT OF U.S. ROLE. COMMENTS ALSO FOCUS ATTENTION ON PLACE OF UN IN CURRENT CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV'S QUESTION AND ANSWER PROGRAM ON TELEVISION OCTOBER 13 STRESSED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ARAB COMBATANTS AND REVIEWED ORIGIN OF ME CRISIS BEGINNING WITH ARAB-ISRAELI WAR OF 1948, BUILDING CASE AGAINST ISRAEL AS "AGGRESSOR" AND EXPANSIONIST POWER REFUSING TO ACCEPT ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO ME CRISIS. ZHUKOV REFERRED TO

REPORTS THAT FLIERS, SOME OF WHOM HAD FOUGHT IN VIETNAM, WERE TRAVELING THROUGH SPAIN AND ENGLAND AS "TOURISTS" TO JOIN ISRAELI AIR FORCES. HE AVOIDED IDENTIFYING FLIERS AS U.S. CITIZENS, HOWEVER, AND CONFINED COMMENT ON U.S. ROLE IN CURRENT SITUATION TO NOTING U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN UN.

3. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT WHY UN HAS NOT SENT FORCES TO ME TO STOP ISRAELI AGGRESSION, ZHUKOV STRESSED THAT SC REQUIRES CONSENSUS OF PERMANENT MEMBERS (HE DEFENDED SC VETO PROVISION) AND INTERNATIONAL COURT CAN ONLY ADJUDICATE CASES BROUGHT TO IT BY BOTH PARTIES TO A DISPUTE. ZHUKOV THEN NOTED THAT IN CASE OF ME, SC HAS NOT HAD CONSENSUS AND ASKED "CAN ONE IMAGINE U.S. VOTING TO SEND FORCES AGAINST ISRAEL?" HE SAID HOWEVER, THAT SC REMAINS IMPORTANT FORUM IN CURRENT CRISIS. HE CREDITED UN WITH STOPPING 1967 WAR AND REFERRED TO SC RESOLUTION 242 AS HAVING GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN DETERMINING BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ME PROBLEM.

4. PRAVDA OCTOBER 14 PLAYS A NUMBER OF WESTERN PRESS REPORTS ON U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL. IT CITES LA TIMES REPORT THAT U.S. IS DELIVERING ARMS INCLUDING F-4 PHANTOMS TO ISRAEL VIA US BASES ABROAD AND PORTSMOUTH HEARLD REPORT THAT U.S. IS SUPPLYING BOMBS AND MISSILES. ALSO CARRIED ARE TURKISH HABER AGENCY ITEM ABOUT DEPARTURE OF 20 F-4S FROM INCIRLIK AIR BASE FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION, TASS ACCOUNT OF STATEMENT BY ARAB AMBASSADORS IN PARIS THAT U.S. CITIZEN PILOTS WERE INVOLVED IN BOMBING OF DAMASCUS (NO DETAILS), AND DENIAL BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN OF "YA" STORY ABOUT U.S. PILOTS JOINING ISRAELI AIR FORCE.

5. IN ITS WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PRAVDA TAKES MODERATE LINE ON U.S. QUOTING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR TO EFFECT THAT WASHINGTON IS SEEKING MEANS TO OVERCOME BREACH BETWEEN TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND DANGER THAT ARABS WILL STEM FLOW OF OIL IF THIS POLICY IS NOT MODERATED. REVIEWER THEN GOES ON TO SAY THAT CONGRESSIONAL "HAWKS," ZIONIST CIRCLES, AND ANTI-SOVIET FIGURES LIKE AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY ARE PRESSURING USG TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND ARE SEEKING TO POISON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

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6. TASS REPORT ON SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN PRAVDA QUOTES HIM ABOUT U.S. DESIRE TO SEE QUICKEST POSSIBLE END TO HOSTILITIES AND TO HAVE CONTACT WITH ALL PARTIES AND MEMBERS OF SC AFTER FIGHTING IN ORDER TO MAKE MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE. REPORT QUOTES SECRETARY THAT U.S. IS MAINTAINING MILITARY LINKS WITH ISRAEL AND OBSERVES THAT SECRETARY WAS SILENT ON ISRAELI BOMBING OF CIVILIAN TARGETS.

7. COMMENT: ABOVE INFORMATION TOGETHER WITH REF B WILL ANSWER DEPARTMENT'S INQUIRY REF A AS REGARDS SOVIET HANDLING OF ALLEGATIONS CARRIED BY SPANISH NEWSPAPER YA. OTHER THAN CARRYING WESTERN REPORTS ABOUT ALLEGED DELIVERIES OF WAR MATERIEL TO ISRAEL, AND REPORTING WITHOUT COMMENT MOVEMENTS OF U.S. SHIPS, WE HAVE NOT SEEN DIRECT SOVIET CRITICISM OF U.S. POSITION ALLUDED TO IN REF A AND WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILS.

8. BASED ON OUR MONITORING OF SOVIET PRESS AND TELEVISION (WE DO NOT ATTEMPT CONTINUOUS RADIO MONITORING), EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT SOVIETS HAVE THUS FAR SHOWN CONSIDERABLE EDITORIAL RESTRAINT REGARDING U.S., PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION BEING GIVEN IN U.S. TO SOVIET ARMS SUPPLY ROLE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.
DUBS

NOTE BY OCT: SIL AND LAB TAKE MSG AS ORIGINAL.

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